



RTCA in Maine

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Maine offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Maine will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Androscoggin River Trail Enhancement** – The project goal is to enhance users' experience and safety along 100 miles of river trail. (Location: Androscoggin River in Maine)
- **Auburn Community Gardens** – The project goal is to create a community garden program in Auburn, Maine and use this project as a model for gardens at other locations. (Location: Auburn, Maine)
- **Camden Riverwalk** – The project goal is to create a 2-mile shared recreational trail along the Megunticook River through the neighborhoods and downtown of Camden, Maine. (Location: Camden, Maine)
- **Fort Kent Mountain Bike Trail Expansion** – The project goal is to create a 12-mile mountain bike trail system. (Location: Fort Kent, Maine)
- **Freeport Outdoor Recreation Areas** – The project goal is to create user-friendly trail systems and enhance volunteer stewardship on two town-owned conservation areas: Hedgehog Mountain and Florida Lake. (Location: Freeport, Maine)
- **Hills to Sea Trail** – The project goal is to continue developing a 40 mile trail from Belfast to Unity, Maine and facilitate a process that unifies trail management with an organization. (Location: Belfast to Unity, Maine)
- **Lake Auburn Trails Access** – The project goal is to evolve a trail system that protects water quality while providing public use for outdoor recreation and water quality education. (Location: Auburn, Maine)
- **Schoodic Ped, Peddle, Paddle** – The project goal is to create an integrated network of outdoor recreation opportunities in the Schoodic region. (Location: Schoodic region of Maine)
- **Swift River Bridge** – The project goal is to build a bridge over the Swift River to connect students to the school and the trail systems on both sides of the river. (Location: Rumford and Mexico, Maine)



Kayakers enjoying the Androscoggin River trail. Photo: Ken Gallant

- **Trail of the Senses** – The project goal is to develop a universally accessible trail that engages all the senses with a focus on fragrance, sound, and tactile stimuli. (Location: Alton and Old Town, Maine)
- **Veazie Rail Trail**– The project goal is to create a multi-use, multi-generational rail trail on or near the former Veazie rail bed where landowners have granted permission. (Location: Orono, Maine)

Recent Success Story

West Side Trail – Volunteers from the Town of Yarmouth, Maine revived a grand vision for a non-motorized off-road trail along the west edge of town. In the wooded corridor of a utility right-of-way, the 6.5 mile trail is nearly complete thanks to hundreds of hours of volunteer time.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Maine contact:

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